

Members:

Rep. Sheila Klinker, Chair
Rep. Robert Alderman
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Rose Ann Antich



Lay Members

Sylvia Brantley
Christopher Durcholz
Suda Hopkins
Sally Lowery
Dr. Joanne Rains
Thomas VanMeter
Betty Williams

LSA Staff:

Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Steven Wenning, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: P.L. 245-1997

INDIANA COMMISSION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 232-9855 Fax: (317) 232-2554**

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 15, 1998
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Rep. Sheila Klinker, Chair; Rep. Robert Alderman; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Thomas VanMeter; Sally Lowery; Suda Hopkins; Dr. Joanne Rains; Christopher Durcholz; Betty Williams.

Members Absent: Sylvia Brantley.

LSA Staff Present: Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst; Steve Wenning, Staff Attorney.

Representative Klinker called the meeting to order and announced that this was a joint meeting with the Commission on Autism. She asked members of the MRDD Commission and the Commission on Autism to introduce themselves.

Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Presentation

Ms. Katherine Davis, Secretary, FSSA, presented the Comprehensive Plan for the Design of Services for People with Developmental Disabilities.¹ She stated that the plan was developed by the 317 Task Force which was created by SB 317-1997. Ms. Davis explained that the Task Force has met for over a year and has been able to understand the current system of services for persons with developmental disabilities as well as develop an estimate of the demand for services in the future. She stated that the plan does not

¹ This document is on file in the Legislative Information Center, Room 230, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Center is (317) 232-9856, and the mailing address is 200 W. Washington St., Suite 301, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789.

ignore the importance of state developmental centers.

Ms. Davis testified that the plan has five recommendations:

- (1) A continued emphasis on person centered services and planning.
- (2) A redirection of resources.
- (3) Assuring and improving the quality of services to the developmentally disabled.
- (4) A need to expand community capacity to provide services for individuals in the community.
- (5) The need to secure the necessary financial resources to expand services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Ms. Davis reviewed the Task Force recommendation for additional funding.² Ms. Davis stated that the Task Force recommends a need for an additional \$14.2 million in funding for FY 2000 and \$24.9 million in FY 2001. Ms. Davis testified that the FSSA has developed a new formula for Medicaid funding that will allow a shift of \$7 million in the cost of service provision from the state to the federal government. She stated that it is possible that this \$7 million could be used to fund part of the additional new funding needs identified in the Task Force plan.

Representative Alderman asked if the budget instruction for the next biennium requires state agencies to cut 5% from their current budget. Ms. Davis stated that this is correct and the FSSA would request that the cuts not apply to direct services.

Ms. Davis presented information to the Commission showing the placements of individuals moving from the New Castle Developmental Center.³

The Commission discussed the feasibility of requesting additional funding, while state agencies are being asked to cut 5% from their existing budgets.

Other Testimony

Representative Klinker read a letter from a constituent, Rose Surface, which detailed Ms. Surface's concerns about service provision to the developmentally disabled.

Ms. Cordelia Lewis, Director for Politics and Legislation, American Federation State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), provided written testimony to the Commission concerning the AFSCME position on the 317 Task Force report.⁴ Ms. Lewis testified that while AFSCME agrees with several of the recommendations in the 317 plan, AFSCME felt it might be best to prepare its own set of recommendations.

Mr. John Dickerson, Executive Director, Association of Retarded Citizens of Indiana, (ARC of Indiana) complimented the 317 Task Force for developing the plan. He stated that never before has a plan been developed to provide services to the developmentally disabled. Mr. Dickerson stated that the 317 Task Force should be statutorily extended to study other issues as well as making sure the plan is implemented. He testified that one area for further study is the need to develop a better data system to track where individuals are receiving services.

Representative Klinker asked how long the Task Force should be extended. Mr. Dickerson replied that a two-year extension which coincides with the development of the biennium budget process might be the proper time frame.

² This document is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1).

³ A copy of this information is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1).

⁴ A copy of this information is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1).

Mr. Dan Harshman, Logan Center, testified concerning the communication plan being developed by a subcommittee of the 317 Task Force. He stated the communication plan will be presented to the 317 Task Force in August and the main focus will be to inform the public of the 317 Task Force recommendations.

The next meeting was set for August 17, 1998, at 10:30 a.m., Room 233, State House.

There being no further business, Rep. Klinker adjourned the meeting.